

# A Pledge of Better Times by Margaret Porter



**THE BOOK:** A sweeping tale of ambition, treachery, and passion incorporating 17th century historical figures, royalty, and events.

For generations Lady Diana de Vere's family loyally served England's crown. But after King Charles II's untimely death, her father firmly opposes James II's tyranny. Charles Beauclerk, Duke of St. Albans—the late king's bastard son by actress Nell Gwyn—also rebels against his newly crowned uncle's manipulation. Political and religious turmoil bring revolution and yet another coronation before Charles returns to from war to claim his promised bride. As companion to Queen Mary Stuart, Diana has followed her de Vere forbears into royal service. She expects Charles to abandon his military career after marriage, but he proves unwilling to join the ranks of the courtiers he despises and mistrusts.

In palace corridors and within their own household the young duke and duchess confront betrayals, scandals, and tragedies that threaten to divide them. And neither the privileges of birth nor proximity to the throne can ensure their security, their advancement—or their happiness.

*Includes Book Group Discussion Guide.*

**THE AUTHOR:** Margaret Porter is an award-winning, bestselling novelist whose lifelong study of British history inspires her fiction and her travels. A former stage actress, she has also worked in film, television, and radio.

**A Pledge of Better Times** is her 12<sup>th</sup> novel.

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ISBN 978-0-9907420-4-3  
ISBN 978-0-9907420-0-5 (ebook)

Page Count: 414

Trim: 6 x 9 inches

Formats: Trade paper & digital

Price: \$14.95 (print) \$5.99 (ebook)

On Sale Date: April 14, 2015

Category: Historical Fiction

Publisher: Gallica Press

Available from: Ingram, Amazon



Gallica Press

## **REVIEWS:**

“A true delight for fans of monarchy. . . Porter does a sensational job portraying the time period . . . the relationship between Charles and Diana is complex and interesting.” *The Examiner*

“A richly evocative peek into a world long gone . . . Porter explores friendship, marriage, parenthood, and loyalty as she tells the story of people who were celebrities in their time, and illuminates the soft power aristocratic women had, if they were allowed to wield it.” *New Hampshire Sunday News*

“Meticulously researched, an impressive cast of real-life characters brought to vibrant life. A masterful writer.” *Award-winning author M. Reed McCall*

“Elegant prose and vivid detail . . . A Pledge of Better Times sweeps you into late Stuart England.” *Marci Jefferson, author of Enchantress of Paris.*

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